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Approved By:

Lisa Anderson

Prepared By:

Darlene Dessureault, George Myles

Report Highlights:

CANADA SEEKS FURTHER WTO CONSULTATIONS ON COOL * NORMAL VALUES ON TWENTY FIVE YEAR DUMPING DUTY ON U.S. POTATOES INTO BRITISH COLUMBIA TO BE REVIEWED YET AGAIN * CANADIAN SEEDING INTENTIONS RELEASED * H1N1 DETECTED IN ALBERTA SWINE HERD

General Information:

This Week in Canadian Agriculture is a weekly review of Canadian agricultural industry developments of interest to the U.S. agricultural community. The issues summarized in this report cover a wide range of subject matter obtained from Canadian press reports, government press releases, and host country agricultural officials and representatives.

Disclaimer: Any press report summaries in this report are included to bring U.S. readership closer to the pulse of Canadian developments in agriculture. In no way do the views and opinions of these sources reflect USDA's, the U.S. Embassy's, or any other U.S. Government agency's point of view or official policy.

CANADA SEEKS FURTHER WTO CONSULTATIONS ON COOL: The Canadian government has been under intense pressure from its livestock industry regarding the United States country-of-origin labeling

measure (COOL) and, on May 7, 2009, the Canada announced that it will be taking steps in the World Trade Organization dispute settlement process by formally seeking further consultations with the United States. The country-of-origin labeling measures were published as a final rule in the U.S. Federal register on January 15, 2009. In the joint-press release issued by the Minister of International Trade and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Ministers stated concerns over U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack's, open-letter to industry encouraging the use of stricter and broader labeling measures than necessitated, in Canada's opinion, by the current law. The Canadian livestock industry has welcomed this announcement. The press release is available at the following web-address: http://w01.international.gc.ca/MinPub/Publication.aspx?lang=eng&publication_id=387135&docnum=123 .

NORMAL VALUES ON TWENTY FIVE YEAR DUMPING DUTY ON U.S. POTATOES INTO BRITISH COLUMBIA TO BE REVIEWED YET AGAIN: Canada's Border Services Agency (CBSA) has initiated a review of the normal values of whole potatoes, excluding seed potatoes, red potatoes, yellow potatoes and the exotic potato varieties, regardless of packaging, and white and russet potatoes imported in 50-lb. cartons in the following count sizes: 40, 50, 60, 70 and 80, and excluding imports during the period from May 1 to July 31, inclusive, of each calendar year, originating in or exported from the United States of America, for use or consumption in the province of British Columbia. The re-investigation is part of the CBSA's enforcement of the Canadian International Trade Tribunal findings of June 4, 1984 and April 18, 1986, respecting the subject goods, which were continued in 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005. It covers U.S. fresh potatoes classified under the Harmonized System classification numbers: 0701.90.00.10 and 0701.90.00.20. The information collected in the course of the review, which will cover the 2007/2008 crop year, will be used to determine the normal values of the subject goods imported into British Columbia on and after September 25, 2009, or the date of the conclusion of the review, whichever occurs first. The CBSA has cautioned importers that new normal values, when issued, may be higher than those currently in effect and that this could result in additional assessments of anti dumping duty.

CANADIAN SEEDING INTENTIONS RELEASED: Statistics Canada released the results of the March Intentions of Principle Field Crop Areas on April 24, 2009. The planting/seeding intentions survey results suggest that the area seeded to total wheat will be similar to the area planted to wheat the previous year. A nearly 20% decline in area intended to be seeded to winter wheat and a 5% decline in area intended to be seeded to durum is off-set by a 6% increase in area intended to be seeded to spring wheat. Area seeded to barley is expected to increase by 1% from the previous crop year. The area seeded to corn is expected to increase 4% while the area seeded to oats is expected to decrease almost 10% from the previous year. The planting surveys suggest that the total area seeded to grains (wheat, barley, corn, and oats) in 2009/2010 will be only marginally less than the previous crop year; however, a return to normal yields is expected to result in decreased production in 2009/2010. Post forecasts 2009/2010 Canadian total production of wheat, barley, corn and oats at 50.7 MMT in 2009/2010, down 8% from 55.3 MMT in 2008/2009. The survey results suggest that canola area is set to decline to 14.8 million acres, a 7.3% decline from the record area of 16.0 million acres in 2008. The surveys also suggest area seeded to soybeans will increase only marginally. The survey responses seem to indicate that reducing production costs are heavily influencing production decisions and is perhaps the reason that wheat, barley and less cost intensive plants may be grown instead of the more cost intensive canola, despite oilseed prices staying relatively strong. Full survey results as well as information on the methodology and data followed for the seeding intentions survey can be found at the following website:

[Field Crop Reporting Series – March Intentions of Principle Field Crops Areas, Canada 2009](#)

H1N1 DETECTED IN ALBERTA SWINE HERD: On May 2, 2009, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) issued a news release announcing that it had found H1N1 flu virus in a swine herd in the province of Alberta. CFIA suspects but has not yet been able to confirm that the pigs were exposed to the virus from a Canadian who has recently returned from Mexico and who had been exhibiting flu-like symptoms. This was bad news for the already-hurting Canadian pork industry. Despite assurances from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and of CFIA that pork and pork products are safe, some countries including China and Russia have imposed full or partial bans on pork and live swine imports from the Americas. On May 7, 2009, Canada's Minister for International Trade, Stockwell Day, along with US Trade Representative Ron Kirk and Mexico's economy minister Gerardo Ruiz Mateos issued a joint-communiqué urging countries that buy their pork products to end any import bans imposed during the swine flu virus scare.

Exchange Rate: Noon rate, May 8, 2009 (Bank of Canada): U.S. Dollar = C\$1.1581

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